



Alabama Department of Homeland Security



Ready Alabama Day, Sept. 6th!

As part of National Preparedness Month, Serve Alabama held a state-wide Ready Alabama Day event on the campus of Jacksonville State University to bring the event to Northeast Alabama. First responders from the federal, state, and local levels were on hand displaying their response equipment and techniques. Ready Alabama was open to the public.

Ready Alabama is a state wide emergency preparedness campaign aimed at encouraging Alabamians to develop and use an emergency kit.

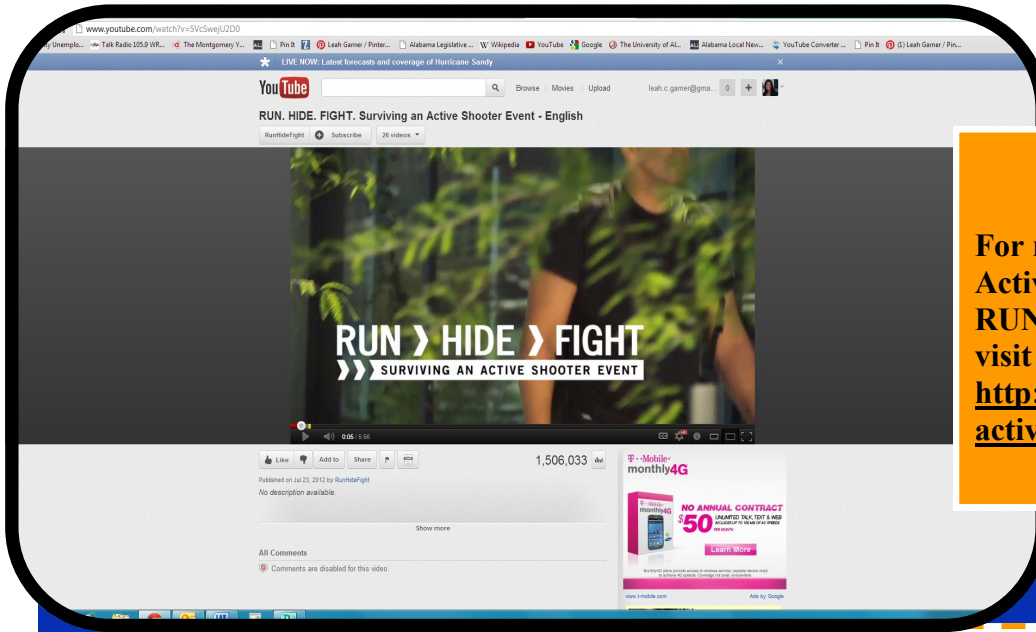
Serve Alabama, in partnership with the Alabama Department of Homeland Security and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency, administers the campaign.

For more information on items to include in your emergency kit, important documents to take with you, and handy checklists for seniors, persons with disabilities, kids, and pets, please visit readyalabama.gov



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For more information about Active Shooter Safety and RUN. HIDE. FIGHT. please visit the AL DHS website at <http://dhs.alabama.gov/activeshooter.aspx>

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

On October 25, 2012, AL DHS participated in “On gUard: Staying Safe on Campus” with students at the University of Alabama. This is a part of the University of Alabama’s Honors College Town Hall series to discuss critical issues affecting students and citizens in Alabama and throughout the United States.

Students were selected by faculty and student organizations from across the campus for the Town Hall event. They were sent background information on the topic being discussed prior to the meeting. As the keynote presenter, along with Chief Steve Anderson from the Tuscaloosa Police Department, AL DHS discussed Active Shooter Safety and what is being done to keep students, faculty, and staff safe on campus. Furthermore, **AL DHS discussed the three tools to remember: “RUN. HIDE. FIGHT.”** if caught in this situation and what they can do to assure that their campus does not experience a Virginia Tech or Colorado movie theater shooting.

After the presentation, the participants divided into small group discussions to recommend how students and the public can assist to keep their campus safe.

Other Town Hall Events included:

Thursday, October 18, 2012 “A New Constitution for Alabama”
Keynote Speakers: Governor Albert Brewer & Senator Del Marsh

Thursday, November 8, 2012 “UAre What you eat”
Governor Robert Bentley, Invited



Serve Alabama and the Alabama Department of Homeland Security held the seventh annual Be Ready Camp. This camp provides an opportunity for sixth graders across Alabama to become Youth Preparedness Delegates, receive a commendation from Governor Robert Bentley, and carry the message of preparedness and safety to their schools, communities and families.

Be Ready Camp is an innovative and unique program that promotes citizen preparedness and participation to sixth graders in Alabama. Be Ready Camp is a five-day full immersion residential camp with two sessions during National Preparedness Month in September at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

Be Ready Camp curriculum includes: emergency preparedness, introduction to survival and first aid, developing an emergency kit, creating a family disaster plan, water survival, light search and

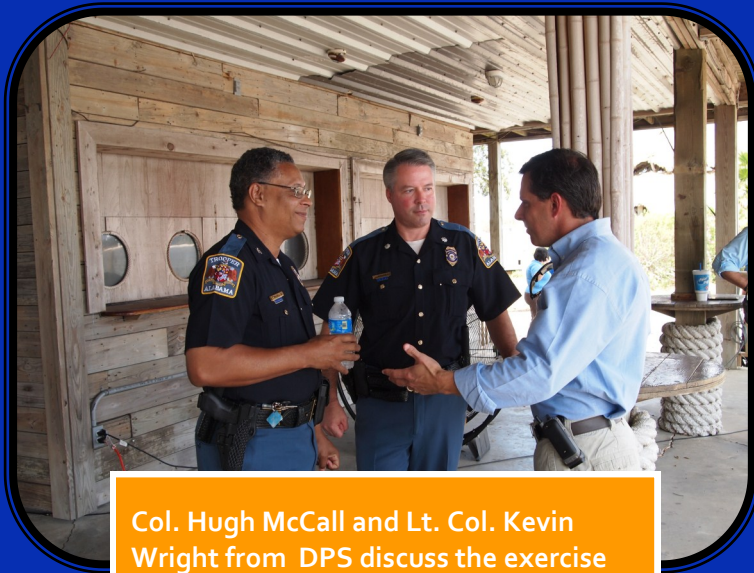
rescue, disaster psychology, triage, career exploration, and terrorism awareness. The camp concludes with a mock disaster, where the youth perform victim search and rescue alongside professional responders in a realistic setting. Students are tasked with bringing the message of preparedness and what they have learned back to their families and their communities.

Be Ready Camp has been featured in international Homeland Security journals and received national media attention, including coverage for the Cable News Network (CNN). Additionally, the camp is considered a best practice by the White House and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



Operation Raging Winds

Personnel from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Alabama Emergency Management Agency, Alabama Department of Homeland Security and Alabama Department of Public Safety participated in the exercise “Operation Raging Winds”, which included simulated long-line helicopter rescues, beach patrol and other training activities to prepare for hurricanes and other emergencies along Alabama’s coastline.



Col. Hugh McCall and Lt. Col. Kevin Wright from DPS discuss the exercise agenda with Director Collier.



Cpl. Kent Smith discusses the job assignments with the exercise participants.



"You're only going to be as good as your weakest element and we exercise to find out where we're weak," said Spencer Collier, Director of Alabama Homeland Security. "We don't exercise to see where we're strong."

Collier said real-life training is the only way to truly test readiness.

"We want to operate at our maximum capabilities. We hope the call never comes but, when it does, we are as strong as we can possibly be," Collier said.



Members of the AL Dept. of Public Safety use the long line rescue exercise for individuals who are stranded in the water.



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Executive Order 34

On August 16, 2012 Governor Bentley signed Executive Order 34 which established the **Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission**. The Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission is the first governance body commissioned to identify, plan and implement a unified interoperable communications for the state's first responders.

The Commission will be responsible for planning the usage of the **D Block and other 700MHz Spectrums** and will serve as the bridge between federal, state, tribal, and private entities. The D Block spectrum is designed to promote collaboration and information sharing specifically for first responders.

The Commission will also establish and promote a public safety personnel plan in order for **first responders to have effective communication services available in emergency situations**.

The Commission will be the primary entity within this state charged with the functional responsibility for planning, building, implementing and maintaining a radio access network and its application to first responders in Public Safety, Public Health and Public Works.

The first meeting of the Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission was held on October 23, 2012 in Montgomery, AL.

